



# IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 2

November 2002



*Happy Holidays*

**Ironwood Pig Sanctuary**  
**34656 E. Crystal Visions Road**  
**Marana, AZ 85653**

November 12, 2002

Dear Supporter,

First, I would like to wish you a happy, safe, and healthy holiday season with family and friends, both human and non-human. Secondly, I want to thank you for your continued support for our pigs at Ironwood. Even though it has only been a couple of months since you last heard from us, as we try to adjust to a quarterly newsletter, a lot has been happening at Ironwood.

We continue to evolve to meet our needs. Over the past two months we have neutered 19 boars, all rescued from various places, many of which were strays. Not an easy task, I might add, to wrestle 19 boars with large tusks under a gas anesthetic machine. They are held in pens for 45 days after neutering to ensure they are sterile before they are released to our large field. Because of the interaction between our pigs as the herd has grown we have decided to begin new field divisions. Details of this project are in a later article.

In addition to our field divisions we are finally beginning to construct our barn. The concrete footings are in thanks to the help of our many volunteers and the beams will be going up soon. Don't be surprised if you hear from us inviting you to a barn raising party.

Fall is on the way and that means preparations for the cold weather. I thought it would never come, but as we desert rats know, one day it is 99 and then it is 40 and the pigs feel the change as well as us. We have to fill all of our shelters with bedding, blankets, and carpeting so anyone with a few free hours to spare would be welcome.

Finally, we have over 225 pigs with a 32 pig waiting list and continue to welcome many new pigs to our sanctuary. Your support continues to be very important to us whether it is financial, volunteer, or if you are able to be a permanent adoptive parent of one or two of our piggies.

Sincerely,

*Mary Schanz*  
Mary C. Schanz  
President



P.S. As the holiday season arrives please keep in mind that all creatures on this earth deserve a safe peaceful place to be with their families and friends.

# Kizzy's Story

Of the many stories about the pigs that come to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, Kizzy's was particularly upsetting. The first contact we had with her was when the owner of a local pig rescue called us to help



with the medical needs of a female pig abandoned at her property by a local breeder. She had a prolapsed uterus and was so undernourished that you could clearly see every bone in her body.

She was so gentle and trusting we immediately fell in love with her. She trusted us to take care of her even though she had withstood terrible abuse for years. We shuddered when we thought about all the babies she was forced to have, draining life from her body, and not being able to properly care for them in her condition.

We rushed her to our vet where she added a stitch to hold her prolapsed uterus in her body, necessary because her malnourished muscles could no longer do their job. This was the worst case of malnutrition that our vet had ever seen. Her chance of survival was poor since she could have internal organ damage due to her extreme malnutrition. Our vet named her Kizzy after a favorite pet of hers.

We took her to our home and began feeding her three times a day, giving her treats of fruits and vegetables along with her pig food. We had to be careful that we did not feed her too much at one time. Very gradually she began to gain weight and today is a healthy pig. And she hasn't shown any sign of internal organ damage.

With your support, we can continue to provide a caring home for pigs like Kizzy and the other lovable pigs at Ironwood that deserve a chance to be happy and at peace.

When Kizzy gained sufficient weight we moved her to the sanctuary where she quickly made friends with the other pigs and joined the herd in the main field. A couple and their daughter came to visit Ironwood soon thereafter. During their visit Kizzy ran up to them and demanded their attention. That evening they called to say that Kizzy had touched their hearts and they wanted to adopt her.

Today Kizzy lives in Mesa, Arizona with her new family. She has been spayed and will never again be forced to have another litter. She has her own space and a doggy door into the air-conditioned garage when she needs a break from the heat. Her new name is Piglet. She joins the family in the house on many occasions and is very content with her new life.



Please keep us in mind if you are considering a bequest. The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and any donation would be tax deductible to your estate.

## SPONSOR ONE OF OUR SWEET PIGS!

Owners, for a variety of reasons, have abandoned many of the pigs at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Most of these are loving animals that miss their home and would love to have a sponsor. I will send you updates and pictures of your pig throughout your sponsorship. A contribution of \$30 a month will cover all your pig's expenses including food and health care. Listed are just a few of the pigs needing parents. Choose one of them or send me a description (male, female, young, old, special needs, etc.) and I'll send you a picture with background information.

Thank you for making a difference!

Donna



Donna and Navajo

A.J.  
Amos

Elliot  
Elvis  
Emily

Angel  
Annie  
Arnie

Felicity  
Fido

Arnold

Franklin

Baby

General

Baldwin

Georgia

Bandit

Grandma Moses

Benjamin

Gretel

Bernie

Hammie

Betsy

Harley

Betty Boop

Hazel

Binky

Hondie

Blackjack

Blossom

Bobbie

Buster

Charlotte

Chelsea

Chesney

Cinderella

Clementine

Collie

Corky

Daisy Mae

Daley

Danny Ray

Desiree

Dillon

Dixie Lee

Ebby

Elizabeth

Ellie Mae

Jackson  
Jimmy Dean

Joann

Kevin

Kris

Little Pig

Loretta

Louie

Lucky

Lulubelle

Mel

Milton

Molly

Mr. Pibb

Mr. Pigg

Oliver

Otis

Pearl



Emily

Regina

Sammy

Sassy

Spike

Stanley

Sweet Pea

Tammy

Tillie

Travis Magee

Tucker

Valentine

Waylon

Wilbur

Wilma

Wilma Jean

Winston

Zena

**There are Many  
More.....**



Wilma Jean

Petunia

Pete  
Petunia  
Piggy Sue  
Pinkerton  
Popeye  
Porky  
Precious  
Pumba

Send a Special Gift to a loved one or friend by sponsoring one of our sweet pigs in their name. We will send them a letter and photos acknowledging your generous gift.

# Meet Our Pigs

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## MISS SAIGON

One Friday in September, 2001 we received a phone call from the local county animal shelter. A female pig had been taken from her owner who had attempted to kill her for food by repeatedly hitting her on the head with a sledgehammer so hard that the handle broke off. When Miss Saigon arrived at Ironwood, she had dried blood coming out of her ears and nose. She was traumatized and frightened of everything and everyone. She has fortunately recovered from the beating without permanent brain damage. She is comfortable in her new surroundings and spends her days in and around her favorite shelter and ventures over to the community shelter. She is gradually becoming less nervous around people and will allow pets and belly rubs by those she knows well. She was one of the lucky ones who has gotten a second chance.




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## NAVAJO

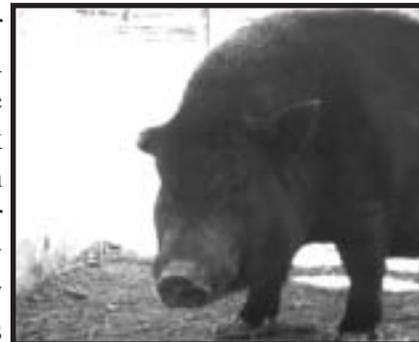


Navajo is probably the cutest pig you'll ever see! He's a young black and white pig with blue eyes that was running loose on Navajo Lane in Tucson and was later picked up by Animal Control. He has since been neutered and vaccinated and now resides out in the field where he waits for people to come out and give him belly rubs and nose kisses. At night, he piles into his igloo with his pals A.J. and Pammie, where they snuggle up and keep each other warm. Navajo has been on TV and the radio as the "spokes pig" for Ironwood. He is certainly a favorite around here!

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## EDDIE AND FLAPJACK

Calls from concerned citizens who have noticed pigs roaming loose in their neighborhoods are one source of rescues. A local resident helped Bob, our dependable volunteer, to capture Eddie and Flapjack from a rural neighborhood in Marana. Both pigs have been neutered, treated for dog or coyote bite wounds and are now happily thriving here at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary although the third pig seen with them was never found. Eddie had part of his tail bitten off and Flapjack has half an ear.



Their wounds have healed and given them added character. Having been running wild in the desert for who knows how long, they are both shy around people. Eddie will allow himself to be petted and after almost a year, Flapjack is just now beginning to let people touch him. Flapjack spends his days sleeping in or near his favorite pool while Eddie wanders all over the field just checking things out. They always end up together at the end of the day to settle down for a safe night's sleep.

# With Growth Comes Change

Sanctuary: A place of refuge and protection.

Our mission is to provide a safe nurturing environment for those pigs in our care. It is our desire to offer sanctuary not just house the animals. This is not always an easy task, but rather one of the biggest challenges we face with our new and rapidly growing sanctuary.

Pigs are by nature herd animals and can often be seen packed in a sea of black contented bodies in one of our large shelters or mud wallows. In fact we have a herd of 57 pigs who all arrived from another sanctuary that coexist well together in their own field with little more than the normal squabbling that always occurs between pigs.

However, most of our pigs do not come as an established herd but as ones and twos, fat and skinny, young and old, healthy and lame, aggressive and shy, and from many different backgrounds. Some are strong young boars and others are fat old housepigs who have never seen another pig. So, just as with humans, they don't always get along. In fact, they like to fight to establish their own territory or place within the herd. This is where our problem lies.

When pigs arrive at Ironwood, we initially house them in pens until we are able to assess their condition, vaccinate them, and neuter the males. However, we do not wish to keep them in pens all of their lives unless they are too old or have medical problems that prevent them from moving out to our field. We then move them to one of the four sub fields within our 6 acre field. Because of the fighting to establish new territory, we introduce the new pigs to the sub field where we feel they would best fit in. We also try and introduce the new pigs in a

group in order to minimize the fighting for any one pig. This causes a lot of disruption for the herd for a few days until everyone gets settled. As the herd gets larger this disruption gets greater and lasts longer. Therefore, for what we believe will foster more harmony with our pigs, we have decided on another large project which is more field subdivisions. We believe this will allow our pigs to establish smaller herds and not disrupt existing herds that have worked out their social structure. There are no easy answers but we will continue to work to offer our pigs a true sanctuary.



We are finding that most of the pigs within a sub field stay close to the feeding areas and the more remote locations are lightly occupied. We feel that we can utilize these areas for our new sub fields and cause a minimum of disruption to the existing herd.

We also have a Special Needs field where pigs not able to stand up for themselves can live in relative peace. We are finding that some pigs cannot cope in the main field but are too aggressive for the Special Needs field. We have decided to further subdivide the main field for an intermediate Special Needs area.

These subdivisions are a large task for us. There will be over 1000 feet of hog panel installed using almost 150 T poles. In addition, we must run the main water lines to these remote areas of the field installing hose bibs and automatic waterers as we go. We estimate that there will be at least 800 feet of water pipe requiring burial along with the addition of 25 automatic waterers. And finally, we must install various kinds of shelters in these new areas. The total cost for these improvements is \$3,500.

***If you can help please let us know.*** We sure could use the volunteer and financial assistance.



John  
Coffey

## New Sponsors!

The following pigs now have sponsors!

<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sponsors</u>
Miss Piggy	Joel
Gandalf	Joel
Flapjack	Christine, Irene
Arnold	Stacy & Dean
Wilbur	Ann
Megan	Bevin
Spike	Tina

## Volunteers

Thanks to our volunteers, without whom it would not be possible to do some of our very important tasks. We recently neutered 9 boars and they all had to be loaded in carriers, transported to Dr. Page's, unloaded, prepared for surgery, carriers cleaned and prepared for the trip back to Ironwood and unloaded once they returned. It would not have been possible for us to do this alone. Thank you John and Francie Harvey, Bob

Fitzpatrick, Cerise Wilson, and the loan of Jacqui Eckert's truck. With team work like that it was a smooth day and all went well.

Thanks to Bob Warehime, who along with Ben, dug the two largest of six holes, 3x3x4 1/2 ft deep!, to get our barn underway. This was in 95 to 100 degree temperatures. Not to say that the rest of the holes were easy for Bob Fitzpatrick, John, Ryan, Justin and Ben. Also Karen Blumer and her whole family; husband Eric, kids Adam and Jessie, and her mom and dad were on hand to help with many tasks.

Herb Cathcote not only drives all the way from the east side of Tucson to be at Ironwood by 7:00am to help feed and volunteer every Friday, but he also is now stopping by Goodwill a couple times a week to pick up blankets for our pigs.

Cindy Sheaffer comes every other Saturday after work to help with afternoon chores and feeding. Ann Haber comes to help and can pound in "T" poles in a flash. Rachael and Ivan come to help with feeding and construction projects regularly.

A special thanks to Ryan Scott. He has been on hand to help with so many different projects this summer I would fill a page to try to enumerate all of them. He is now moving on to a new job and we will miss him and all of his varied skills.

Rose and Rocky Jones for bringing us many wonderful treats for the piggies as well as adopting a little girl, and JoAnn Strand who came all the way from Phoenix with a truck load of treats.

Jacqui Eckert has agreed to be our new volunteer coordinator and we hope we have enough volunteers to coordinate.

And I don't want to forget those who work offsite. Michela Belluso, BadMojo Design, who has worked so hard on much of our graphic design and

(continued on page 9)

# The Day Begins at 4:30 A.M.

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The day begins at 4:30 a.m. Out to crank up the generator to pump the morning's supply of water then settling down at the computer. Emails are always first; people wanting information about our adoption program, directions to the sanctuary, stories of pigs to be released, updates to previous owners who are still concerned about their pig, advice to owners on hoof trimming, feeding, etc. After that, I spend an hour working on grant writing and research or writing letters to our many sponsors of pigs.



Then the real work begins..... it's breakfast time! I feed my 2 cats, 2 dogs and 2 pigs (plus a quick bite for myself) and start with the medicating, feeding, watering and cleaning of the 225 pigs and our one precious goat. The entire morning routine can take 3-4 hours, depending on the volunteer or staff help that I get. I make sure that each pig is accounted for and gets his/her fair share of the food. There are many who need special attention during meal times. For example, if other pigs get too close to Travis Magee while he eats, he gets nervous and throws up. Stanley, an abuse case, needs fattening up and has to be guarded from the others to give him time to eat double portions. Roger is bullied by his herd during meals and is fed in a special area. The list goes on and on.

After feeding there are always a variety of chores to be done; stocking up the different feed stations with hay and/or feed, adding or repairing shade cloth on the shelters, putting out blankets during cool weather, painting and building more shelters, pounding in T-poles and hauling out hog panels for fencing, raking, and taking phone calls from owners wanting to release pigs.

During the hot weather, watering must be repeated at noon so it's off to the pens and fields again to check all the pools, mud wallows and waterers while stopping for the occasional belly rub or ear scratching. Sylvia, a beautiful young pig who had been attacked by a dog, must have her physical therapy session at noon. I have her walk back and forth (chasing treats, of course!) in ever increasing laps to regain the use and strength of the muscles in her front legs. Her exercise sessions are done 3 times daily.

A short lunch break for me, which often includes meetings with Ben and Mary, the sanctuary owners. Afterwards, it's time to continue more outdoor chores or some days, I'll spend time at my desk catching up on phone calls, grant research or updating the records kept on each pig that comes to



Ironwood. I keep track of such things as neuterings, tusk or hoof trimmings, medical problems and solutions, vaccinations, etc. for every pig.

Mid to late afternoon and it's time to start the evening feeding. Again, all the water stations are cleaned and filled. Pigs are fed and medicated. Throughout the day's work, I'm always spending time with the pigs and observing them, on the lookout for any problems or changes that need attention and care.

After starting the generator for its evening run, I settle on my back steps, sit down to watch the sun set, listen to the pigs as they burrow in for the night then shake all the hay, feed pellets and dirt out of my shoes. Another long hard day at the sanctuary has passed, but I know my pigs are loved and well taken care of.

Donna

## Work Weekend!

In order to complete our preparation for winter we are having a work weekend November 16th and 17th. Please mark your calendar and plan on coming. We have a lot to do and your help will be appreciated. We can use any skill so don't be shy.

### Volunteers - continued from page 7

design, Maria Radloff who does our website, Rita Gibbs for her help with PR and the open house invitation, and Lis Gibson for our new and wonderful sign that greets all who visit.

Thank you Kim Matas, of the Arizona Daily Star, for all your articles and efforts to get our name out there to the community and get our piggies adopted.

Eight pre-vet students from the University of AZ who came out to help with vaccinations and get a lesson on hoof and tusk trimming from Dr. Page.

Finally, a good bye to June Hill who has been working for us for far too brief a time. Other work obligations require that she leave her part time job with us and we will miss you June!!

I love Navajo. He is one of my favorite pot bellied pigs. Donna doesn't hesitate to bump her nose against his as a little kiss. He is so gentle and sweet we consider him our mascot. Ironwood rescued him from certain death at the local Animal Control where they found him wandering the streets of town one night. We like to take Navajo to fairs and once to a radio station. He doesn't mind traveling and is very comfortable with those he meets. Everyone loves him. He comes to me when I visit his field — when I call out his name. He loves to receive belly rubs and I don't hesitate to give him one. Hi Navajo!

How about a hug? ----- Ben



Dr. Staton Spaying Petunia

### Sanctuary Sustainers Urgently Needed

Almost everyday the sanctuary receives calls about pigs needing our help and we must always ask the question, "where will the money come from to help this one?" The answer is simple: from people who care and want to make a difference.

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$1 or \$1,000, will be charged to your Master Card or Visa. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

Thank You for caring!

# When We Get The Call

If you ever thought about it pot bellied pigs are not small and are not easy to handle. They can't jump into the car for a trip to the vet and are very stubborn when you want them to move somewhere they don't want to go. When owners buy a baby pig, which we don't recommend, they never think about what they will do when it grows to a 150 pound animal. In fact, in most cases, they are either told that it will not be heavier than 35 pounds or they believe that from what they might have heard. It is difficult for most people to handle their pigs and they rely on the vet to make house visits for periodic care. When they finally decide that they no longer want their pig for many reasons; moving, divorce, illness, or behavior problems, they don't know where to turn. If they call the Humane Society and County Animal Control they will discover that they will not pick up a pig at your house. Only those loose in the street creating a safety problem will be picked up. In most cases you are on your own to find a solution.

That is when we get the call. We understand that owners have troubles dealing with their large animals and we would prefer to help. We are always concerned that those with inexperience may injure an animal by trying to move it themselves. We have had calls from New Mexico, all over Arizona, and Las Vegas. We had one rescue where Bob, our volunteer, and I drove our "pig mobile", Mary's 1994 Corolla wagon, over 225 miles one way to Demming, New Mexico to pick up an overweight female named Zena. It had rained the previous day so the area was muddy. We did okay but got some mud in the wagon. Mary didn't mind, she treats her Corolla like a truck, carrying pigs, produce, pig food, even a bale of hay which fits nicely in the back with the seat down. Zena has since lost considerable weight and has found her spot in the special needs field.

We have made many 225 mile round trips to Phoenix where we have picked up as many as 7 pigs on one trip. These are all day excursions. When the

weather is hot and we have more than one pig, we rent an airconditioned panel van so that there will be no danger of heat stroke when the temperature can reach 115 degrees.

For one rescue we made three trips of 160 miles round trip each to rescue a whole family of pigs. There was the mother and father and 4 young running loose in the desert. If we had failed in our attempts, the rancher threatened to shoot the pigs. The Baldwin boys have been neutered and they and the girls are now in the main field.

Whenever possible we try to schedule our trips to make best use of our time and gas money but that is not always possible. Recently we got a call from Phoenix. A woman had rescued a large old pig in her neighborhood and she called us to say she had not been able to find the owner and she was being evicted that week. We rescued Norman the day before her eviction. A local call came one evening when a woman arrived home from work to find a large pig in her yard and she had no fence to contain it. Both Norman and Tucker are safe and happy at Ironwood.

We are just thankful we are able to respond to these calls and that these hapless piggies have someplace to go.



# Ironwood

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is a pot bellied pig rescue, sanctuary and adoption facility. We provide a safe home for mistreated, unwanted, or rescued pigs.

## MISSION

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

## FACILITIES

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in November of 2000 in Marana, Arizona, a rural community northwest of Tucson, as a result of the overpopulation of other sanctuaries in Arizona. Our sanctuary consists of 40 acres with 10 being developed exclusively for pot bellied pigs and the remaining 30 serving as a buffer or for future growth. Recently released or rescued pigs are housed in one of 24 holding pens in order to give us the opportunity to evaluate new arrivals, treat them for specific wounds or illnesses and provide the pigs time to acclimate to a different environment and to each other through the safety of fencing. Over time, the pigs are transferred from their holding pens to a 6 acre field where they can mingle with the herd yet still have plenty of room to find their own space when wanted. Individual and sharable shelters as well as mud wallows and pools are available in all areas.

## ADOPTIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

**Ironwood** also places pigs in adoptive homes. All prospective “parents” are screened. We want to be sure that these lovable creatures are a welcome part of the family.

**Ironwood** has a number of resident pigs that have personality problems, have been abused or are too old to be adopted. Pigs not adoptable will live out their lives at the sanctuary. You can help them by sponsoring your favorite resident pig! A contribution of \$30 a month pays for all your pig’s expenses. Your sponsorship gives you all the background information available on your pig, including a photo, and periodic updates. Visit your very own pig as often as you like. They always like company and, of course, those special treats you bring.

## RESCUES

**Ironwood** accepts calls to rescue pot bellied pigs found wandering in neighborhoods or in the desert, those left in community shelters and any who are abused or abandoned by their owners. We also receive pigs from owners who are no longer able to care for them.

## BOARDING

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** has a boarding facility exclusively for pot bellied pigs that provides a peaceful setting away from the trauma of barking dogs and other stressful conditions that can occur at other boarding kennels. Please call for more information about our boarding program.

## SUPPORT

Even if you can’t adopt or sponsor one of our pigs, you can always come out and help. We always have an extra poop-scooper or you can help with one of our ongoing projects or just give tummy rubs!

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY  
34656 E. CRYSTAL VISIONS RD.  
MARANA, AZ 85653

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# IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



*Please indicate if you are interested in adopting or sponsoring a resident pig, donating needed items or volunteering. Please include your name and phone number.*

### **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

- I would like to sponsor a pig.*
- I would like to become a sanctuary sustainer.*
- I would like to donate needed items.*
- I would like to volunteer.*
- I would like to adopt a pig.*

### **TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION**

\$25.00    \$15.00    \$50.00    \$100.00    Other

**Make checks payable to IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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